



The Stared Review

This is a monthly newsletter that will let you know the titles that our review committee felt were outstanding.

Hot Rod Hamster Cynthia Lord 2010

Scholastic Press 978-0-545-03530-9

Rhyming, Opposites, Adjectives

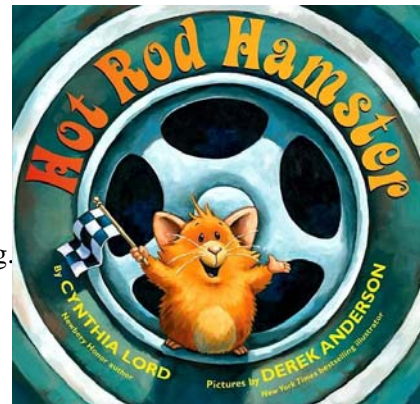
"Hot Rod Hamster" is the story of a hamster that, with the help of a friendly junkyard bulldog, is putting together the perfect race car.

This is a great book for kindergarten through 2nd graders.

The colorful pictures are an important part of the storytelling.

The illustrations, speech bubbles throughout the book, along with the rhythmic text provide for a fun, exciting read aloud for the younger grade students.

Susan Irwin 11/29/2010



Ellen Craft's Escape From Slavery

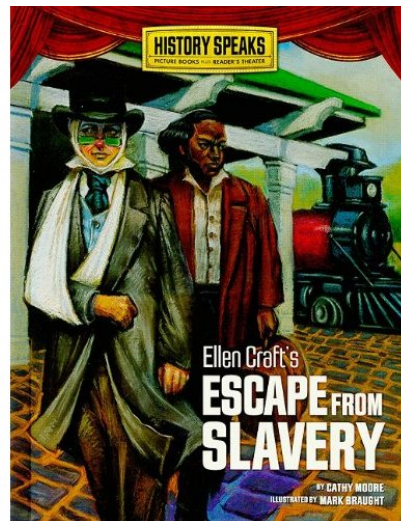
Cathy Moore 2011 Millbrook Press

History Speaks 978-0-7613-5875-6

History, Slavery, Character Traits, Drama

The book tells the daring story of how Ellen Craft and her husband risked their lives for freedom in the 1840s when runaway slaves were sometimes killed for attempting escape. Thought provoking and adventurous this is a good book for middle grades, 3-6.

The book provides flowing text with deep colored pictures that help to set the tone of the book. The reader's theater script and instructions that follow the text provide an excellent follow up activity for the classroom and the library. There is even a website that provides sound effects, background images, and ideas to make the reader's theater more exciting and dramatic. There is also a glossary, pronunciation guide, and recommendations of further reading and websites. Susan Irwin



Fairness Lucia Raatma 2009

Cherry Lake Publishing 21st Century

Junior Library 978-1-60279-322-4

Character Education; Behavior

Describes what fairness is, how to be fair with others, and how to help others to be fair.

Good, simple examples and explanations.

Large font and bolded words make for easy reading. Full page captioned photographs further explain the concept of fairness in a way that all can understand. Bolded words are explained in the Glossary. Index and Table of Contents included as well as Find Out More section with books and websites.

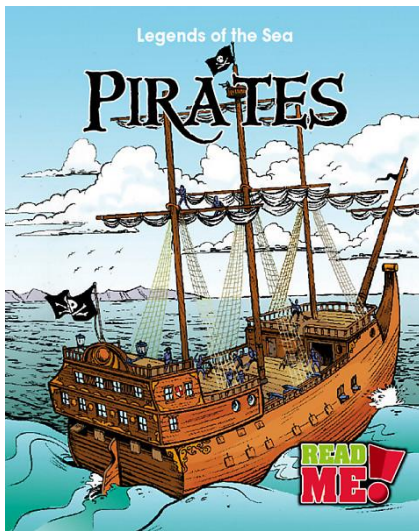
Karen Forbes 11/20/2010



While the World is Sleeping

Pamela Duncan Edwards 2010 Orchard Books
978-0-545-01756-5 Animals; Rhyming Text

A small child is shown nocturnal animals playing and searching for food. Enjoyable calming rhyme with repeating line. Full color 2 page spreads with rhyming text throughout, each verse ending with "while the world is sleeping". Nice touch having the child fall asleep with and then wake up with stuffed snowy owl which is its mode of transport through the night. Karen Forbes 11/20/2010

**Pirates** Rissman, Rebecca 2010

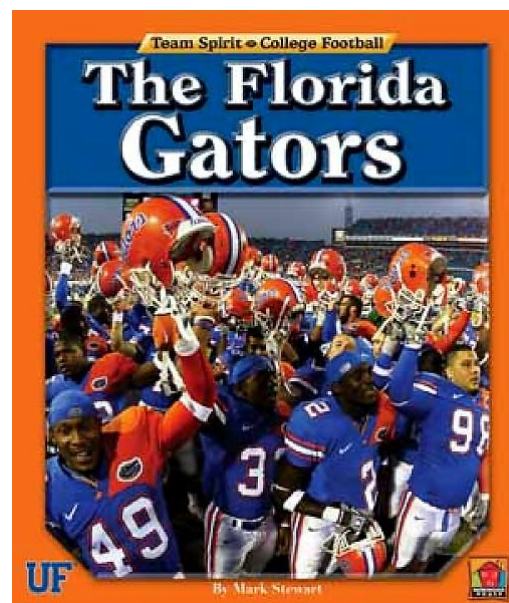
Raintree Legends of the Sea
978-1-4109-3787--2

Pirate/Maritime History

Pirates informs on several topics including famous pirates, attacks, pirate booty, weapons, and pirates today. The reading level of this high interest series is perfect for young readers either for listening to or reading to themselves. The illustrations are eye catching, sometimes using graphic style and sometimes a portrait style and also photograph. The large print text makes it simple for a beginning reader to follow and decode. Included are a glossary, index and a page to find out more information. Dennise Taggart 11/29/2010

The Florida Gators Stewart, Mark 2011

Norwood House Press
Team Sports-College Football
978-1-59953-333-9 College Sports, Florida
The Florida Gators is a comprehensive look at "one of the most popular colleges in the United States". It includes information on the most notable players and coaches through the years as well as team accomplishments. This series provides a wealth of information and photographs on and about college football teams. The information is presented in an organized and clear fashion. The full page photographs and captions are additionally informative. Also included is a timeline, fun facts, awards, a glossary and index. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish is another book from the series that was reviewed. Dennise Taggart 11/29/2010



Girl's Book of Friendship

Reece, Gemma 2010

Scholastic The Girl's Book

978-0-545-22327-0

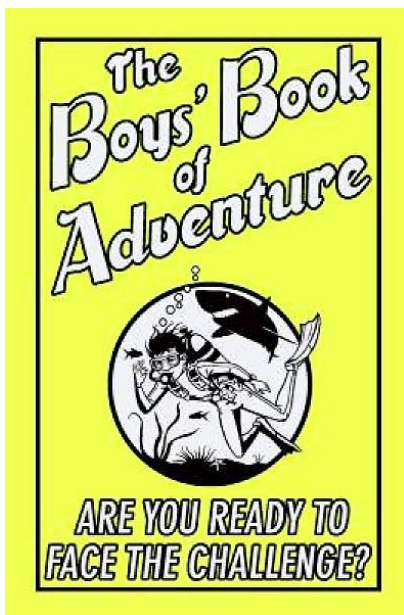
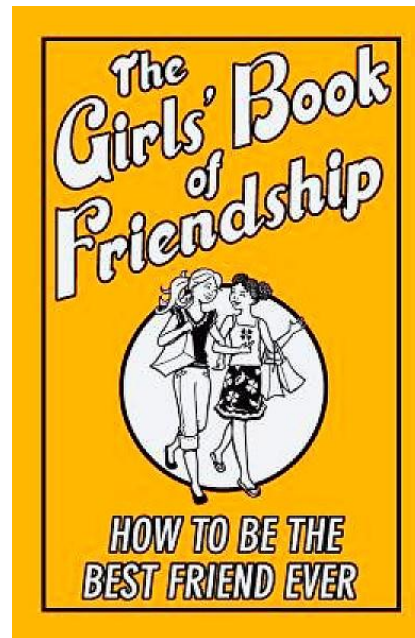
Reading - high interest

Light hearted look at some of the fun things around girl friendship. I enjoyed this book because it gives fun, healthy and positive ideas about friendship.

The strength of this book is that it gives ideas that girls would enjoy and it is a positive resource for girls. There is a lot of material available to girls that sends a negative message while trying to appeal to girls.

This does not. It has real life advice, is current and would be parent approved without being boring to the girls. I recommend this book for 3rd-6th grade.

Claire Shadow 12/1/2010

**Boy's Book of Adventure**

Martin, Steve 2010

Scholastic Boys' book

978-0-545-22326-3

Reading - high interest, boys reluctant readers

The book uses adventure and humor as a way to draw boys into reading. Fun, light hearted, high interest book for boys. Strong recommendation! This book will be great for reluctant readers. It has information on skills such as knot tying and climbing to higher adventure like escaping a boa constrictor. The book does have adventure but it does not encourage ridiculous risk taking. I think boys will enjoy it very much.

Claire Shadow
12/1/2010

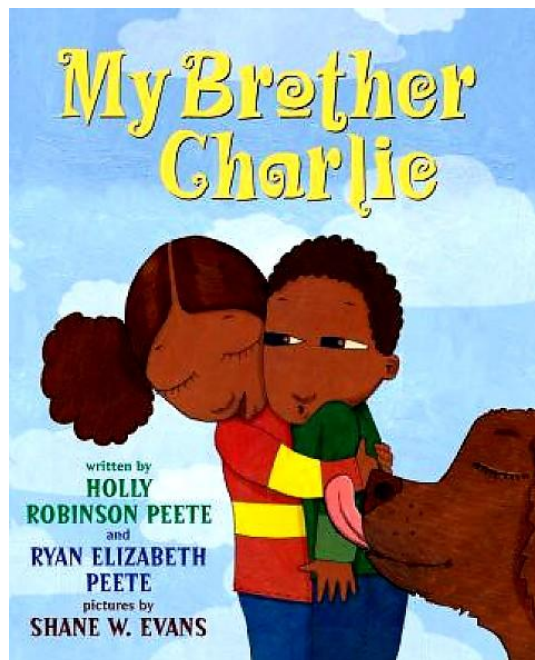
My Brother Charlie

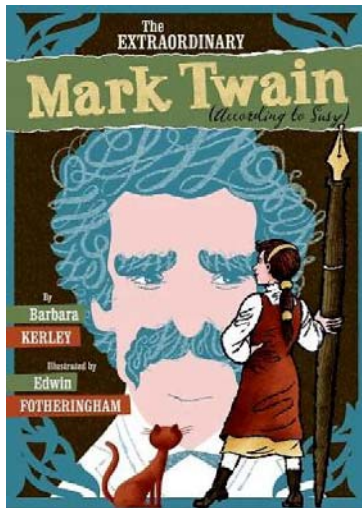
Holly Robinson Peete 2010

Scholastic 978-0-545-09466-5

Health Character Development

A story that tells what it is like to live with an autistic family member. The story is based on the true story of Holly Robinson Peete's real life. Great story that will help explain to young children how an autistic person is different in expressing themselves from other children. Well written for a younger audience. The story does not go into great detail about autism, it touches on aspects that children might notice in a friend with the disability. Pictures are appropriate for the age group- many pictures are exaggerated and fun. I would recommend this book. Juliana Johnsen 12/2/2010





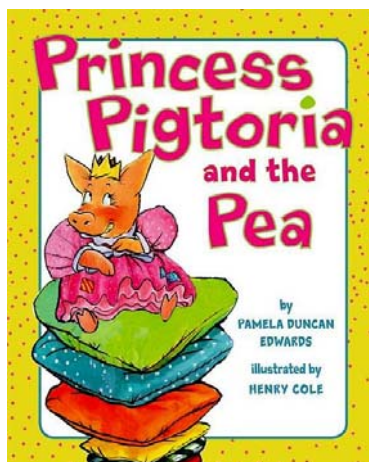
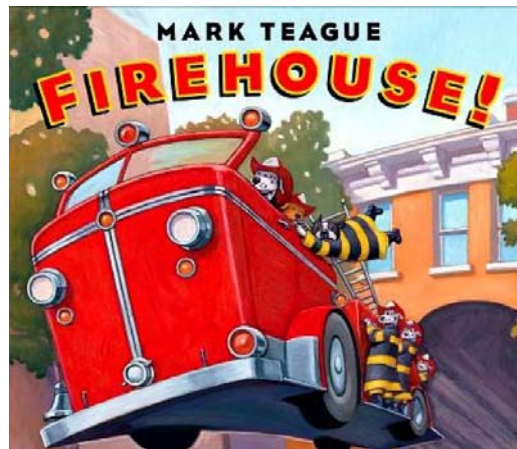
The Extraordinary Mark Twain

Kerley, Barbara 2010 Scholastic Press
978-0-545-12508-6 Biography and writing
The story of Mark Twain as told by his 13 year old daughter. with quotes and excerpts from Mark Twains life, and insights that only a family member would know. The book also provides an outline of how to write your own biography. At first I wasn't sure about the book but after the first page it captured my attention and I wanted to know more. The writing is a mix of quotes, revelations, and very intimate portrait of a well loved man. The pictures are bold and vibrant. The throughout the book there are parts of the full biography. The book tells about how Suzy wrote the biography, some excerpts, and quotes. This book would be a good book to use when explaining to students how to do a biography. Carolyn Major 12/15/2010

Firehouse

Mark Teague 2010 Orchard Books
978-0-439-91500-7 Fire Safety, Language Arts

Edward visits a firehouse and is shown around by the fire chief. Then he gets to go along during a fire drill. A simple text book with visually pleasing illustrations. This book has very simple sentences and text which makes it very appropriate for emergent readers. The illustrations are very colorful and well done. I would definitely recommend this book and use it myself during October for fire safety. Vanessa Hoffman 11/30/2010



Princess Pigtoria and the Pea

Pamela Duncan Edwards 2010
Orchard Books 978-0-545-15625-7
Picture Book Alliteration Fractured Fairy Tales
Princess Pigtoria tries to find a way to fix up her palace so she goes to Prince Proudfoot to apply to be his bride. As with all fairy tales, it ends happily ever after. Fun alliterated twist on the princess and the pea. This fractured fairy tale has more "p" words than one thought possible. Fun, full color illustrations will keep readers attention and the story will keep their tongues tied. Stephanie Shelton 11/19/2010



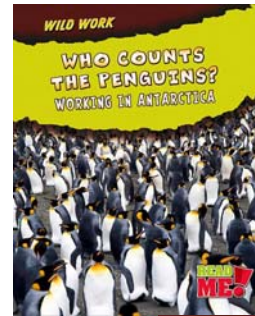
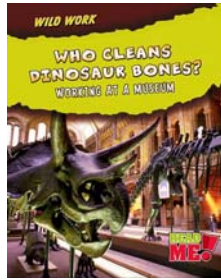
Yes, I know that this is not a pig but when I searched it came up as a princess and it was to cut to pass up! Marci

Who Cleans Dinosaur Bones: working at a Museum Margie Markarian 2011 Raintree
Wild Work 978-1-4109-3847-3

Non-Fiction Community Helpers

This series gives readers a brief look at all of the different people involved in making something work. Working at a museum introduces readers to everyone from the paleontologists to the costume managers. I read one to do the review and ended up reading the rest! Second to fourth grade reading level.

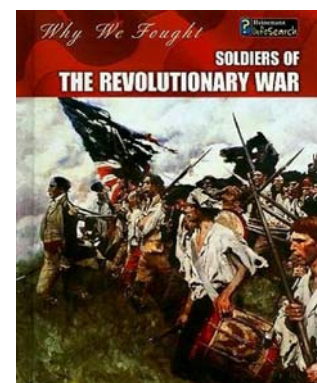
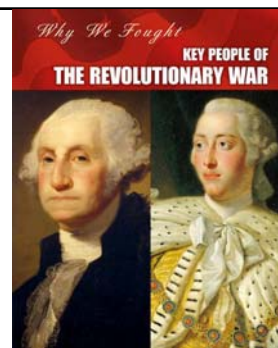
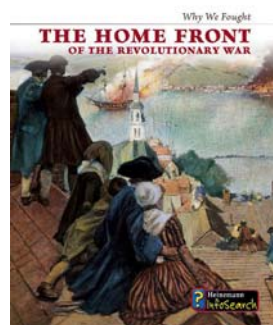
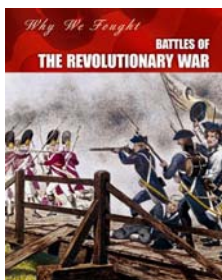
This series has glossary words in bold and pronunciations throughout the text. Detailed index and table of contents make specifics easy. The "Web sites to visit" section has additional resources for adding interest. Large simple font make it a quick read and full color illustrations add visual interest. Clever titles start each section and "did you know" text boxes add quick facts. Other titles in the series include: Who rolls Through fire? Working on a Movie Set, Who Swings the Wrecking Ball? Working on a construction Site, Who Counts the Penguins? Working in Antarctica, Who Lands Planes on a Ship? Working on an Aircraft Carrier, Who Scoops Elephant Poo? Working at a Zoo, Who Walks in Space? Working in Space, Who Walks the Tightrope? Working at a Circus. Stephanie Shelton



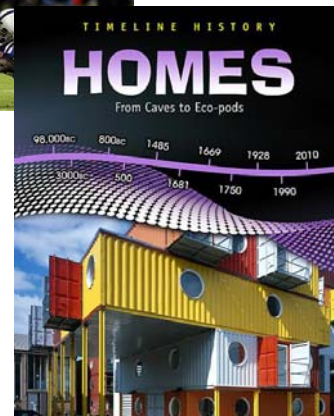
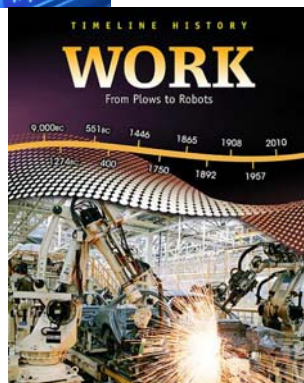
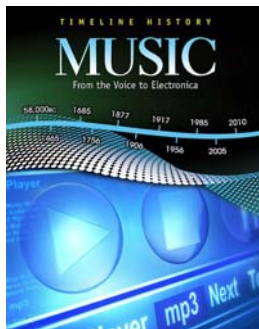
Battles of the Revolutionary War Patrick Catel 2011 Heinemann

Why We Fought 978-1-4329-3896-3 5th Grade Social Studies

A comprehensive set of books about the Revolutionary War. This set includes battles, soldiers, key people and the home front. Well written for intermediate students, I would recommend this series. This non-fiction text includes a table of contents, index, glossary, timeline of events, a find out more section and text boxes that pose questions for the reader. The text boxes ask questions that will help the reader with critical thinking skills. Although the drawings may not be as exciting as actual photo's the editor does a nice job making this visually interesting. The set includes 4 books, Battles of the Rev. War, Soldiers of the Rev. War, Key People of the Rev. War, and Home Front of the Rev. War. Juliana Johnsen 11/18/2010



Music: From the voice to Electronica Charlotte Guillain 2011
 Heinemann Library Timeline History 978-1-4329-3808-6
 History, Timelines
 A history, in a timeline format, of music from 58,000 BCE to the present. A very interesting book with a lot of information presented in a way that makes it very easy to understand. The book begins with an introduction and a description of a timeline. The book is organized with the timeline running through the middle of each page and continuing on the next. The historic events are presented along the timeline with text boxes and illustrations and photographs. It is a style that is very simple to get the information and I think students would really enjoy these books. The six other titles in the series are: Clothes: From Fur to Fair Trade, Games: From Dice to Gaming, Homes: From caves to Eco-Pods, Sports: From Ancient Olympics to the Super Bowl, Transportation: From Walking to High-Speed Rail, Work: From Plows to Robots Vanessa Hoffman
 11/20/2010



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